

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00
DHA-02 IGA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /083 W
-----041148Z 050409 /22

O 041106Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2557

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2457

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SWEL, EAID, RO
SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FOR ROMANIA

REF: STATE 073276

1. REFTTEL REPORTS SENATE FLOOR ACTION REDUCING SUM FOR ROMANIAN RELIEF TO TEN MILLIONS DOLLARS. FACT THAT TELEGRAM WAS SENT LATE APRIL 2 ONLY PRIORITY MEANT THAT WE DID NOT HAVE IT UNTIL MORNING OF APRIL 4. AS A CONSEQUENCE AMBASSADOR WAS CAUGHT UNPREPARED WHEN CONFRONTED WITH NEWS ABOUT THE CUT WHICH CAME FROM STEFAN ANDREI (NEWS CAME FROM ARCHITECT MENTIONED IN PARA 6B. BUCHAREST 2357 WHO HAD JUST SEEN ANDREI). DURING THIS WEEK'S CONSIDERATION IN CONGRESS OF RELIEF BILL, PLEASE KEEP EMBASSY UP TO DATE WITH IMMEDIATES OR NIACT IMMEDIATES. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE SOME EXPLANATION OF WHETHER FY77 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IS TO BE THE CHOSEN VEHICLE FOR RELIEF APPROPRIATION OR WHETHER OTHER VARIATIONS ARE BEING CONSIDERED.

2. RE PARA 5, STATE 071603, ARCHITECT HOPES TO HAVE MORE INFORMATION ON BUILDING COMPLEX LATER THIS WEEK. HIS
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PRELIMINARY THINKING INVOLVES ANY ONE OF SEVERAL LOCATIONS ON THE EDGE OF BUCHAREST WHICH WOULD GIVE MORE SCOPE FOR IMAGINATIVE PLANNING. HE BELIEVES SOCIALIST HIGH RISE TYPE OF DWELLING COULD BE AVOIDED AND THAT EVEN SOMETHING LIKE ATTACHED DUPLEXES MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR PART OF PROJECT. SOVIET AID COVERS LARGE PANEL TYPE CONSTRUCTION WHICH IS STANDARD

HERE BUT ALSO VERY COSTLY IN TERMS OF USE OF MATERIALS AND HE BELIEVES US PREFAB TECHNOLOGY COULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IN COMPLEX HE HAS IN MIND. SINCE HE IS NOT AN ENGINEER, HE IS TRYING TO FIND ENGINEERS FAMILIAR ENOUGH WITH AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES BEFORE FLESHING OUT PROPOSAL SOMEWHAT MORE. HOPE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CONGRESS IDEA OF CONTRIBUTION TO HOUSING AREA BEYOND TEAM THAT IS NOW BEING ASSEMBLED CAN BE KEPT OPEN.

3. IN AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION WITH NICOLAE OVER WEEKEND NICOLAE EXPRESSED SOME DOUBTS THAT VERY LARGE SUMS COULD BE USED EFFECTIVELY FOR MEDICAL EQUIPMENT GIVEN THE FACT THAT SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED SO FAR IS IN MEDICAL AREA. AMBASSADOR STRESSED WITH HIM AS WELL AS WITH GLIGA AND MACOVESCU NEED TO HAVE BETTER SENSE OF ROMANIAN PRIORITIES IN MEDICAL AND OTHER AREAS. ONE NEW POSSIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE MEDICAL FIELD WOULD BE THE POLYCLINIC LOCATED RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE EMBASSY WHICH HAS HAD TO BE EVACUATED. WE'RE TRYING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ACTUAL EQUIPMENT DAMAGED.

4. IN MEANTIME, SUGGEST SOME THOUGHT ALSO BE GIVEN TO POSSIBLE USE OF PORTION OF FUNDS FOR RE-EQUIPPING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES WITH THINGS LIKE SCIENCE AND LANGUAGE LEARNING LABORATORY EQUIPMENT. PRESS REPORTS OVER 2200 CLASSROOMS DESTROYED. CONSIDERABLE

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DESTRUCTION ALSO HAS TAKEN PLACE AT MEDICAL FACULTY AND CHEMICAL FACULTY IN BUCHAREST, WITH THE LATTER'S BUILDING BEING COMPLETELY DESTROYED. AS REPORTED LAST WEEK, DAMAGE ALSO SEEN IN SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITY AT CRAIOVA.
BARNES

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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